MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN: *(a)* Yes.

(*b*) Accountant-General's Office, Excise Commissioner's Office and Assistant Excise Commissioner's Office.

(c) There are periodical audits of accounts and inspections of records by the Excise Commissioner, the Assistant Excise Commissioners and the Out-audit Branch of the Accountant-General's Office.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: What are the medicines on which duties are levied?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN: Those medicines which contain liquors or any intoxicating drugs above a certain limit.

PRESIDENT: Opium and wine, included in the homeopathic medicine.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: Sir, opium when it forms a component of homeopathic medicine, is not opium at all because of its high potency.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN: I am not sure, Sir.

PRESIDENT: In other words, the smaller quantity of opium that goes into the constitution of the medicine, the greater is the effect produced by the medicine as a whole. I take, that is what you mean?

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: Yes, Sir.

Ilmenite.

413. ❊ MR K. A. MOHAMED: Will the Government be pleased to state the number of tons of ilmenite exported during the course of 1946 from the State?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN: 1,79,925 tons till the 15th July 1946.

Homeopathic practitioners.

414. ❊ MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state whether they are aware of the difficulties experienced by homeopathic practitioners who have to get medicines from outside the State by the enforcement of the present Excise Rules in the State and the consequent hardships experienced by the patients, and if so, what action has been taken by the Government so far or is proposed to be taken to redress the grievances?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN: Some representations have been received for the removal of customs restrictions on the import of homeopathic medicines which are spirituous preparations. No case of hardship on account of such restrictions to the patients has been brought to notice. No steps have been taken to remove the restrictions for the above reason.

Articles exported to foreign countries.

415. ❊ MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to give:

(*a*) a list of articles with their quantity and value, produced in Travancore and exported to foreign countries through the port of Cochin; and

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(*b*) a list of articles with their quantity and value produced in foreign countries and imported into Travancore through the port of Cochin ?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN: (*a*) and (*b*). A list showing the main items imported from and exported to foreign countries by Travancore through the Cochin Port is laid on the Secretary's table. The quantity and value figures cannot be given, as the period is not specified in the question.

Transactions with the Customs Houses.

416. ❋ MR P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state

(*a*) whether it is a fact that all transactions with the Customs Houses have to be done through the medium of Custom Agents and not by parties themselves;

(*b*) if so, the year in which this system was introduced; and

(*c*) the reasons that led to its introduction ?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN: (*a*) No.

(*b*) and (*c*) do not arise in view of answer to part (*a*).

The price of salt.

417. ❋ MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether the Government are aware that price of salt has risen in the market; and

(*b*) if the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative the reason therefor, and what steps Government have taken to prevent such rise?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN: (*a*) No.

(*b*) In view of the answer to part (*a*) the question does not arise.

Bridge across ferry on the Azhiyadathu Chira.

418. ❋ MR. P. KOCHUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they are aware of the dilapidated condition of the bridge across the ferry on the Azhiyadathu Chira, Mepral road, in Peringara pakuthy, Tiruvalla taluk; and

(*b*) whether they are aware that this bridge is not safe for vehicular traffic ?

MR. C. KUMARA DAS: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes; it is not intended for vehicular traffic.

Mepral Road.

419. ❋ MR. P. KOCHUKRISHNA PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they are aware of the necessity of raising the level of the Mepral road in Peringara pakuthy, Tiruvalla taluk, and

(*b*) whether they are aware that the above road is submerged under water during flood season ?

MR. C. KUMARA DAS: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes.

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